

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 09368 231625Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 /065 W

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R 231510Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1783

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 846

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 9368

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: BAYAR VISITS ANKARA

1. FORMER PRESIDENT CELAL BAYAR, WHO NORMALLY REMAINS SEMI-SECLUDED IN ISTANBUL, ARRIVED ON ONE OF HIS RARE VISITS TO ANKARA AROUND DECEMBER 16-17. FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER 17 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING HE REPORTEDLY MET WITH PRIMIN DEMIREL, FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL AND JUSTICE PARTY (JP) MINISTER OF STATE SEYFI OZTURK AT THE HOME OF HIS DAUGHTER, INDEPENDENT DEPUTY NILUFER GURSOY. TWO DAYS LATER HE WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT A LARGE DINNER HOSTED BY DEMIREL FOR VETERAN MENDERES-ERA DEMOCRATS AND ON DECEMBER 21 HE DINED WITH SADETTIN BILGIC, FORMERLY A POWER WITHIN THE CURRENT DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) AND NOW A LEADER OF THE INDEPENDENT DEPUTIES.

2. BAYAR'S VISIT HAS TOUCHED OFF NUMEROUS RUMORS:

(A) HE IS REPORTEDLY IN ANKARA TO DECIDE WHETHER
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 09368 231625Z

HE WILL ASSUME HIS SEAT AS A LIFE SENATOR (A RIGHT

ACCORDED TO ALL FORMER PRESIDENTS), ESPECIALLY SINCE THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS RESULTED IN THE SENATE BEING ALMOST EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION.

(B) HE WILL ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE A NUMBER OF INDEPENDENTS AND DP DEPUTIES TO SUPPORT DEMIREL ON THE QUESTION OF ELECTING A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER.

(C) HE WILL ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE INDEPENDENTS AND DP DEPUTIES TO JOIN THE JP SO THAT DEMIREL WILL BE ABLE TO DROP THE NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) (AND ITS AGGRESSIVE YOUTH BRANCH) FROM THE GOVERNMENT COALITION.

(D) HE WILL TRY TO FORGE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE JP AND REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) SO THAT BOTH THE NAP AND THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

3. WHETHER OR NOT ANY OF THESE RUMORS PROVES ACCURATE, THE 92-YEAR OLD BAYAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT HE STILL POSSESSES SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND VITALITY. MACOMBER

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